

MAR 21 2007

Application No.: 09/876235

Docket No.: COTH-P07-701

REMARKS

Claims 63-77 are pending in the application. Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b/e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 63-77 stand rejected.

Double Patenting U.S. Patent No. 6,258,558

Claims 65-72 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-46 of U.S. Patent No. 6,258,558. Without addressing the merits of this rejection and for the purpose of expediting prosecution, Applicants have filed a Terminal Disclaimer herewith over the 6,258,558 patent. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Double Patenting U.S. Patent No. 6,281,344

Claims 63-64 and 77-79 are rejected for obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,281,344. Without addressing the merits of this rejection and for the purpose of expediting prosecution, Applicants have filed a Terminal Disclaimer herewith over the 6,281,344 patent. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Double Patenting U.S. Patent No. 6,214,553

Claims 63-64 and 77-79 are rejected for obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,214,553. Without addressing the merits of this rejection and for the purpose of expediting prosecution, Applicants have filed a Terminal Disclaimer herewith over the 6,214,553 patent. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Please charge any further fees or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 18-1945 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw, under order no. COTH-P07-701.

Dated: March 21, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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